

STATEMENT  
OF  
SENATOR DANIEL K. INOUE  
VICE CHAIRMAN  
COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS  
BEFORE THE  
JUNE 8, 2004  
HEARING  
ON  
S. 2436  
A BILL TO REAUTHORIZE THE  
NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAMS ACT

The Committee meets this morning to receive testimony on S. 2436, a bill to reauthorize the Native American Programs Act.

The Native American Programs Act was enacted into law in 1974, as part of President Johnson's War on Poverty initiative.

The Act is administered by the Administration for Native Americans within the Department of Health and Human Services.

The Administration for Native Americans provides grants to –

- assist Native communities in social and economic development initiatives;
- build the capacity of Native communities to plan and develop environmental programs; and
- provide support to Native communities that are seeking to preserve their Native languages.

For many tribal groups, ANA funding is one of the few sources of support that may be used to develop the necessary genealogical, anthropological and historical data necessary to document their petitions for Federal acknowledgment.

There can be no doubt that the Native American Programs Act has enabled some of the most important critical objectives in Indian country to be achieved.

Many of our witnesses today have submitted written testimony to the Committee because they lack the resources to travel to Washington, and we are most appreciative of their input.

So without further ado, I will call our first witness, Ms. Quannah Crossland Stamps, the Commissioner for the Administration for Native Americans.